

## THE ONTARIO ARGUS

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## Germany, Iron and War.

In connection with the claim of Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, in his lecture at the Chautauqua in Payette recently, that the war in Europe was a contest to control the output of iron ore in Europe, some figures compiled in an editorial by the New York Times are interesting.

According to the Times the pig iron production of Europe was 44,274,000 tons in 1913, the last full year of uninterrupted industry. Of that amount Germany produced 19,000,000 tons, Great Britain produced 10,500,000, France 5,225,000 and Belgium, 2,319,000.

Germany has conquered practically all of Belgium and holds possession of a very large proportion of the coal and iron resources of France. About 80 per cent of France's coal deposits are in the departments of Nord and Pas de Calais, and fully 80 per cent of her iron mines are in the department of Meurthe et Moselle. Germany has occupied only about 3.7 per cent of French territory, but that 3.7 per cent includes these three provinces.

The Times, to be conservative, estimates that only one-half of the total pig iron capacity of France is in German hands, and arrives at the following figures showing Teutonic control of pig iron in tons:

Germany	19,000,000
Austria-Hungary	2,335,000
Belgium	2,319,000
France (50 per cent)	2,912,000
Total	26,266,000
The allies' control of pig iron is only 18,007,000 tons, divided as follows:	
Great Britain	10,500,000
France (50 per cent)	2,612,000
Russia	4,475,000
Italy	420,000

The United States is the only great non-European source of iron. In 1913 this country produced more pig iron than Germany and Great Britain together. That is why the allies are looking to the United States to offset Germany's control of iron, for iron wins a modern war.

## A Bit of War.

"On the ground from Lorette Heights to Neuville and the Labyrinth," says a German general, as quoted by an American correspondent, "are perhaps ten thousand unburied or partly buried dead. The stench is pestilential. By means of a hose we have thrown creosote or quicklime upon those nearest our trenches. As a matter of self preservation both sides appear lately to have come to an unspoken agreement to bury those nearest them at night."

"It's ghastly beyond imagination. Words cannot portray to the mind that picture—by day and night white eyes staring out of faces burned coal-black by the sun. There are places where there are veritable piles of bodies. As the days and weeks go by, they shrivel and shrink together like little heaps of old clothes. Those silent heaps are more weird by moonlight than by day. 'I wish those who cause and make war with indifference would be put into that 'hell of death' between Neuville and the Lorette Heights for a while.'"

That's the way they all talk now. All the belligerents have learned what war is; and whether naturally pacifists or militarists, they're sick of it. The pity of it is that they did not realize it last July.

## Americans Who Back Huerta.

If General Huerta really contemplated a dash into northern Mexico with General Orozco as the active head of a new revolution—and our government apparently has evidence to that effect—it's a pretty good guess that he had backers in lower Manhattan. There are plenty of New York financiers who would rather see a dictator of Huerta's type ruling Mexico than any milder and more scrupulous leader, pledged to reform. The 'strong hand' which is admittedly needed to govern that distracted country has heretofore been used freely to deliver and fortify foreign concessions. It was particularly so when the hand belonged to Diaz, who was Huerta's ideal ruler.

Gen. Huerta can't be blamed much for plotting revolution. He's a Mexican, and that's his business. But it's a very ticklish business for American citizens to monkey with. If there was really a well organized plot, backed by American capital, just at the time when the United States government was making a supreme effort for the final pacification of Mexico, the ramifications of the case will be interesting as they develop.

## Farm and Garden

## TENT CATERPILLAR CONTROL.

Depredations Are Widespread—Effective Measures Described.

[Prepared by the United States department of agriculture.]

A very familiar sight in the spring is the unsightly nests or tents of the tent caterpillar, found in trees or bushes along the roadways, streams, fences, in neglected orchards and elsewhere.

These gregarious caterpillars construct the tents for their protection, and these, at first small, are gradually enlarged often to a foot or more in height and diameter, the size varying with the number of individuals in the colony.

Species of the tent caterpillar are found quite generally over the entire United States. The moths deposit their eggs by early midsummer, or earlier in the south. By fall the embryonic larva is practically full grown within the eggs, where it remains until the following spring. With the coming of a warm spell the larvae escape by gnawing through their eggshells often before there is foliage out for food, and under these circumstances they may feed upon the glutinous covering of the egg mass.

The tent caterpillar feeds principally on wild cherry and apple trees, but will attack many other plants, and where such trees can be removed without disadvantage this should be done, thus lessening its food supply.

During the dormant period of trees, when the leaves are off, the egg masses



LARGE NEST OF LARVAE OF TENT CATERPILLAR IN GROVE OF WILD CHERRY TREES.

are fairly conspicuous, and with a little practice may be readily found; it is then that they should be cut off and burned. Trees infested with larvae during the early part of the year, or those in the immediate vicinity, are perhaps more likely to be chosen by the parent moth for the deposition of her eggs, and such trees at least should be searched if it is not practicable to extend the work to the orchard as a whole. This work may be combined with pruning to good advantage, and a lookout should be kept not only for the eggs of this insect, but for the eggs and cocoons of other injurious species which pass the winter on the trees.

When two egg masses are deposited close together, the resulting caterpillars may form a common nest. These nests are gradually enlarged and soon furnish ample protection. If the caterpillars are destroyed as soon as the small nests are detected, this will prevent further defoliation of the trees, and the rule should be adopted to destroy them promptly as soon as discovered. In this work either of two practices may be adopted, namely, destruction by hand or with a torch.

When in convenient reach, the nests may be torn out with a brush, with gloved hand, or otherwise, and the larvae crushed on the ground, care being taken to destroy any caterpillars which may have remained on the tree.

The use of a torch to burn out the nests will often be found convenient, especially when these occur in the higher parts of trees. An asbestos torch, such as is advertised by seedsmen, will be satisfactory, or one may be made simply by tying rags to the end of a pole. The asbestos or rags are saturated with kerosene and lighted and the caterpillars as far as possible cremated. Some caterpillars, however, are likely to escape, falling from the nest upon the application of the torch. In using the torch great care is necessary that no important injury be done to the tree; it should not be used in burning out nests except in the smaller branches and twigs, the killing of which would be of no special importance. Nests in the larger limbs should be destroyed by hand, as the use of the torch may kill the bark, resulting in permanent injury.

Tent caterpillars are readily destroyed by arsenicals sprayed on the foliage of trees infested by them. Any of the arsenical insecticides may be used.

On stone fruits, such as cherry, peach and plum, arsenicals are likely to cause injury to foliage and must be used with caution if at all. On such trees the arsenate of lead is preferable, as it is less injurious to foliage and on all trees sticks much better. In spraying for the tent caterpillar only, applications should be made while the caterpillars are yet small, as these succumb more quickly to poisons than those more nearly full grown, and prompt treatment stops further defoliation of the trees.

## Scientific Farming

## FIGHTING THE CHINCH BUG.

Checking an Advance of Bugs in Wheat or Corn Field.

[Prepared by the United States department of agriculture.]

The seriousness of the devastations of the chinch bug varies greatly from year to year, chiefly on account of weather conditions. In some years the inroads made upon the wheat and corn crops have been very serious. If the fight against the pest is started late in winter or very early spring the burning of waste vegetation is recommended by the United States department of agriculture as the most satisfactory control. If the elimination of the chinch bug is delayed until harvest time some form of barrier is practical. It is said indeed that if it were not for an occasional season of heavy rains at the right time the chinch bug would make it altogether unprofitable to raise grain year after year on the same areas. Drenching rains during the hatching season always prove fatal to the young, and such wet periods are sufficiently frequent to keep the numbers of the pests within bounds.

The two forms of the chinch bug are known respectively as the long wing and the short wing. The short winged form occurs along the seacoast and inland along the lower lakes to northern Illinois. The long winged form is found all over the country east of the Rocky mountains and is especially



IMPEDING THE PROGRESS OF CHINCH BUGS. Abundant in the middle west, the section which suffers the most from the chinch bug.

The long winged chinch bug has two generations a year, while it is doubtful whether the short wing has one or two. The adult insects pass the winter under clumps of broomweed, matted grass, leaves or in fact any convenient form of waste vegetation, from which they emerge in the spring to deposit their eggs in nearby grain fields. When the young hatch from the eggs they cluster upon the plants and begin at once to feed upon the juices. Shortly after midsummer this first generation have become adults and deposit their eggs in turn. When these eggs are hatched the young fasten on corn, millet, Kafir and similar crops.

To control the pest, therefore, the department of agriculture recommends in the first place the cleaning up of all fence rows and roadsides and the burning during winter of grass and rubbish about the farm. This not only destroys large numbers of the bugs, but deprives them of shelter through the winter, so that where the work is thoroughly done comparatively few will survive to the breeding season. In the fall or spring green or wet grass will shelter a certain proportion of the bugs from the fire, so it is important that the burning be done in the early winter.

Where this precaution has been neglected or where the negligence of a neighbor has exposed a farmer to loss through no fault of his own, there may be about midsummer a great migration of the bugs from the wheat to the corn field. This presents another favorable opportunity to destroy the pests. Various kinds of barriers are in use to turn the invading army aside. One of the most satisfactory of these is said to be the coal tar line supplemented with post holes. The bugs will not cross the coal tar and, moving along the line of the barrier, fall or are crowded by other bugs into the post holes, where they can be killed at will. As the bugs mass along the line of coal tar they present an appearance not unlike a reddish brown stream running into the post holes. This method has been found thoroughly practical. It is important, however, especially in dusty weather, to keep the coal tar line fresh, for as soon as it is covered with dirt the bugs can pass over it without difficulty. If coal tar is not available petroleum or road oil may be substituted.

Another method is to plow a furrow around the field to be protected with a side so steep that the bugs cannot crawl out of it. In the case of showery weather, when the sides of the furrow cannot be kept loose and dry, the bottom can be cleaned out with a shovel, making the sides more perpendicular and the bottom smoother. The bugs will then follow along the bottom instead of trying to climb out of the furrow, and if holes are dug at intervals of thirty or forty feet the pests will fall into them and can then be killed by kerosene. The coal tar line is probably preferable to the furrow except in cases of exceptionally dry, windy weather.

## OUR PUBLIC FORUM

## I---Introductory

Through the Press Service of Agriculture and Commerce, the master minds of this nation will be invited to the public forum and asked to deliver a message to civilization. Men who achieve seldom talk, and men who talk seldom achieve. There is no such thing as a noisy thinker, and brevity is always a close companion to truth.

It will be a great privilege to stand by the side of men who can roll in place the cornerstone of industry; to associate with men who can look at the world and see to the bottom of it; to commune with men who can hear the roar of civilization a few centuries away.

Too often we listen to the rabble element of our day that cries out against every man who achieves, "Crucify him." Mankind never has and probably never will produce a generation that appreciates the genius of its day. There never will be a crown without a cross, progress without sacrifice or an achievement without a challenge.

This is an age of service, and that man is greatest who serves the largest number. The present generation has done more to improve the condition of mankind than any civilization since human motives began their upward flight. The Greeks gave human life inspiration, but while her orators were speaking with the tongues of angels, her farmers were plowing with forked sticks; while her philosophers were emancipating human thought from bondage, her traffic

moved on two-wheeled carts driven, and oftentimes drawn, by slaves; while her artists were painting divine dreams on canvas, the streets of proud Athens were lighted by fire brands dipped in tallow.

The genius of past ages sought to arouse the intellect and stir the soul but the master minds of today are seeking to serve. Civilization has assigned to America the greatest task of the greatest age, and the greatest men that ever trod the greatest planet are solving it. Their achievements have astounded the whole world and we challenge every age and nation to name men or products that can approach in creative genius or masterful skill in organization, the marvelous achievements of the tremendous men of the present day. Edison can press a button and turn a light on multiplied millions of homes; Vail can take down the receiver and talk with fifty millions of people; McCormick's reaper can harvest the world's crop, and Fulton's steam engine moves the commerce of land and sea.

The greatest thing a human being can do is to serve his fellow men; Christ did it; Kings decree it, and wise men teach it. It is the glory of this practical age that Edison could find no higher calling than to become the janitor to civilization; Vail the messenger to mankind; McCormick the hired hand to agriculture, and Fulton the teamster to industry, and blessed is the age that has such masters for its servants.

## OUR PUBLIC FORUM

## III---Julius Kruttschnitt

On Financing Railroads



The farmers of this nation need to become better acquainted with the railroad men and their problems. It is only those who know that can give us information and the farmers of America should listen attentively to what the men who manage railroad property

—the Legislators and the Commissioners.

"Managing a railroad is quite different from managing a government where the money is raised by taxation. When the expenditures, for good reasons or otherwise, increase, taxes can be equally increased. The railroads, while servants of the public, cannot raise money with such ease and facility. The railroads must keep their expenditures within their incomes because while they have some control over their expenditures they have almost no control over their incomes, their rates being fixed by public authorities."

have to say. Mr. Kruttschnitt, executive head of the Southern Pacific, has written an article dealing with the financing of railroads. He said in part:

"The financing of a railroad is a function which the people, through their servants, the Railroad Commissioners and the Legislators, have never attempted, but it is a most important problem, especially to sections of a State where new railroads are needed. The placing of securities has been left entirely with the promoter and owner of railroads."

"The immediate determination of what earnings the railroad shall be permitted to receive and what burdens it shall have put on it is in the hands of other servants of the public

that under the pressure of increasing demands the transportation systems of the country will, in a few years, break down, unless the railroads are allowed to earn larger funds wherewith to build it up. There are vast sections of the country, especially in the West, where more railroads are needed and they cannot be built unless the railroads raise new capital."

"People invest money in order to make money, and they are skeptical as to whether they can make money by investing in concerns that are dealt with stringently and unfairly. Railroad securities must be made more attractive to invite investments, and in order that they may be made more attractive, the roads must be allowed earnings that will enable them to meet the increased capital charges."

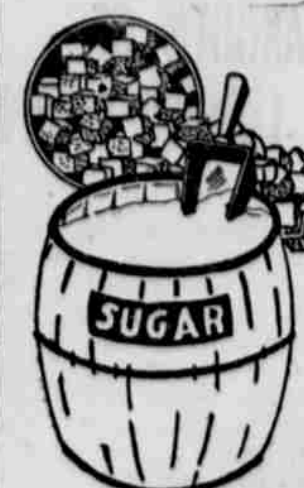
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